

Message Text

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12

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SUBJECT: VISIT OF VOA WILLIS CONOVER TO HUNGARY

REF: BUDAPEST 3128

1. VOA JAZZ MUSICOLOGIST WILLIS CONOVER VISITED HUNGARY SEPTEMBER 9-14 AS GUEST OF HUNGARIAN RADIO. HIS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT BEGAN WITH PARTICIPATION AS GUEST OF HONOR IN THE ANNUAL HUNGARIAN RADIO SPONSORED DEBRECEN JAZZ FESTIVALL WHERE MUSICIANS FROM EIGHT COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THREE FROM THE UNITED STATES, PERFORMED FOR FOUR DAYS TO STANDING-ROOM-ONLY AUDIENCES. MR. CONOVER, KNOWN TO ALL OF THE PERFORMERS AND MOST OF THE AUDIENCE FROM HIS LONG ASSOCIATION WITH VOA, WAS MOST GRACIOUSLY RECEIVED. ON SEPTEMBER 11 CONOVER WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT THE CITY OF DEBRECEN CULTURAL COMMITTEE'S RECEPTION AND WAS INTERVIEWED BY A LOCAL NEWSPAPER ON SEPTEMBER 13.

2. UPON RETURNING TO BUDAPEST SEPTEMBER 13, CONOVER WAS INTERVIEWED ON THE LIVE SIXTY MINUTE HUNGARIAN RADIO PROGRAM "WORLD OF JAZZ". ONLY THE SECOND AMERICAN TO BE INTERVIEWED LIVE ON HUNGARIAN RADIO, MR. CONOVER'S REMARKS ABOUT THE DEBRECEN FESTIVAL AND THE AMERICAN JAZZ SCENE WERE GIVEN TWENTY MINUTES OF THE PROGRAM'S ALLOTTED TIME.

3. P&C IS GRATEFUL TO THE AGENCY FOR MAKING THE VISIT
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OF MR. CONOVER POSSIBLE. AN INVITATION TO AN AMERICAN

FOR A VISIT TO HUNGARY AS GUEST OF HUNGARIAN RADIO IS A RARE OCCURRENCE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE ASSOCIATION WITH VOA. WE FEEL IT IS INDICATIVE OF THE INCREASINGLY CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WE ARE STRIVING TO DEVELOP WITH HUNGARIAN MEDIA.

4. CONOVER WAS ACCOMPANIED TO DEBRECEN BY APAO BORYCKI WHO WAS ALSO CORDIALLY RECEIVED, AND HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH PROMISING NEW CONTACTS WITH LOCAL CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL OFFICIALS. OFFICIALS OF HUNGARIAN RADIO EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION TO HER FOR POST PROVIDED FOR THE APPEARANCE OF TWO OF THE AMERICAN ARTISTS BANJO PLAYER/SINGER EDDIE DAVIS AND BASS PLAYER JACK GREGG.
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